October 6-8, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Editorial: Best choices for Michigan Supreme Court; Incumbents Markman and Zahra, along with challenger McCormack, have right mix of experience

"The Michigan Supreme Court race this year is vital. The current high court has built a body of law that properly balances liability with actual fault, limiting what for decades had been a hostile legal climate for economic growth. That trend must be preserved."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Detroit Free Press Endorsement: Zahra, Kelley, McCormack for Michigan Supreme Court

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Graphic: The Michigan Supreme Court justices

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: A baby step away from partisanship

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Detroit Free Press endorsements: Judge positions in Wayne, Oakland counties

"Wayne County non-incumbent: Six candidates are competing for three nonincumbent seats on the Wayne County Circuit Court.... Oakland County non-incumbent: In Oakland County, two experienced attorneys are seeking to fill the vacancy created by the impending retirement of Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick.... Oakland County incumbents: Circuit Court judges seeking re-election in Michigan rarely draw opposition, especially in the absence of personal scandal, in large part because they are identified on the ballot as sitting judges."

Full story

The Detroit News: Smoking ban challenge rejected; Court rules owner's bid moot since bar is out of business

"The state Court of Appeals has rejected a former Macomb County bar owner's bid to have Michigan's smoking ban declared unconstitutional. In an opinion Thursday, the court ruled that because Boyd Cottrell's Warren bar went out of business, and he has no plans to open another, his attempt to halt the Macomb County Health Department from enforcing the ban on cigarette smoking in public places is moot."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Warren bar owner's smoking ban suit dismissed

<u>Full story</u>

The Macomb Daily: Michigan smoking ban fight to continue

Full story

Note: The Macomb Daily article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

Associated Press: Schuette: Keep juvenile lifers behind bars

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette says a major U.S. Supreme Court decision shouldn't apply to inmates who already are serving no-parole sentences for murders committed when then they were teens.

Schuette's staff this week filed a 29-page brief in the Michigan appeals court in the case of a St. Clair County man, Raymond Carp. He was 15 when he was involved in the brutal death of a woman in 2006." Full story

Also see:

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Convicted killer could get new sentence Full story

**The article is available by subscription only.

Daily Press & Argus: Court Docket: Prosecutor will appeal ruling in murder case

"The Livingston County prosecutor's office is expected to appeal a recent court decision that keeps a jury from hearing an accused murderer's confession. The Michigan Court of Appeals declined to hear an appeal of Livingston County Circuit Judge David Reader's ruling that said a jury will not hear the alleged confession of George Tanner, who is charged with open murder and mutilation of a dead body in connection with the Oct. 15 slaying of Christopher London Townsend, 40."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: St. Joseph County voters to chose new district court judge from among attorneys Matt Davidson and Robert Pattison

"One candidate for the open judge seat on the St. Joseph District Court bench touts his years of experience in the courtroom. The other candidate maintains he has handled more cases than his opponent, despite having spent fewer years as an attorney."

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Conrad Mallett and Bill Schuette: Constitution is wrong place for creating energy policy

Retired Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Conrad Mallet and Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette write "Bipartisan cooperation among elected and appointed officials is such a rare occurrence these days that we're often surprised when members of rival political parties concur on hot-button issues. This happens to be one of those times."

Full story

**The article is available by subscription only.

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court opens session with nofault, medical marijuana cases

"The Michigan Supreme Court formally opens its 2012 session this week. Its first cases deal with no-fault insurance benefits, Michigan's open meetings law, and medical marijuana."

Full story

Also see:

WKAR News/East Lansing: No-Fault, Medical Marijuana Law Issues Before The MI Supreme Court

Full story

Michigan Supreme Court Hears First Oral Arguments of 2012-2013 Session; Two Medical Marihuana Cases, 10 Others to Be Heard Oct. 9-11

Press release

The Oakland Press: Oakland County judges object to outside money in their re-election campaigns WITH VIDEO

"Five incumbent Oakland Circuit Court judges are pushing back against advertising paid for by an out of state group they say has the potential to undermine the integrity and independence of the local court." Full story

The Oakland Press: Oakland County Circuit judicial candidates to debate Wednesday

"Two judicial candidates will debate at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium. Karen McDonald and Dan Christ are vying for the seat being vacated by retiring Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick, who state law mandates must retire due to his age."

Full story

The Oakland Press: Lawsuit argues emergency financial managers should be removed

"Hand over the reins. That's the message from elected officials from the three Michigan cities with emergency financial managers who have joined a lawsuit that claims there was no legal basis for the recent appointment of Michigan's emergency financial managers."

Full story

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Little Gems On Michigan Courts Website Now Easier To Find

"... After an impressive makeover the site's treasure chest of information is much more accessible -- not just the big stuff like opinions, but also little gems like handy public information resources; the State Court Administrative Office dashboard; fees, fines, costs, and money interest rate; and trial court directories."

Full story

Also see:

Michigan State Courts' New Web Site Debuts Today; New site organizes content by audience, features better access and search tools

*Press release**

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Mike Connell: Judicial races are nonpartisan — not

"So I'm driving on West Water Street near the intersection with Oakwood Drive when I notice two campaign signs in a front yard. One urges me to vote for Michael West; the other seeks my support for John Adair. You gotta love it."

Full story

**The article is available by subscription only.